

Guidelines for Services

Although it is wonderful to be able to physically meet together once again, there are some changes to how the service is conducted. These are necessary as we do our best to protect everyone in the face of the ongoing threat of Covid 19.

Must I reserve a seat?

Yes, you will need to phone or email to reserve your seat, letting us know how many of you there will be, and giving us a contact number. This is for three reasons:

- it will allow us to arrange the seating in the best way for those who are attending so that we can observe the 2 metre distancing between households
- we can let you know if for any reason the service has to be cancelled
- we will have a record of who was at the service which we will keep for 21 days to assist with the Government's Track and Trace service if necessary.

Seats will be allocated on a 'first come first served' basis. If you come but have not reserved a seat, you may be turned away.

Phone 01280 848192 or email: admin@shelswellparishes.info. (Becky works mornings on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and will acknowledge any messages during those times).

Do I need to wear a facemask?

Yes, face coverings are currently mandatory unless you fall into one of the categories of the people who are exempt. Those leading the service and anyone doing a reading or leading prayers need not wear a face covering whilst doing this.

There will be disposable masks available for a donation of £1

What will the service look like?

When you arrive, you will be met at the door.

We will not take a collection during the service. Instead there will be a contactless giving plate and a collection plate for cash donations near the door for you to make your contribution as you enter the church.

Then you will be invited to sanitise your hands with hand sanitiser which will be provided.

Then you will be directed to your seat. At all times try to maintain a 2 metre social distance between you and others.

On your seat you will find the order of service, a notice sheet for the week and the words for the hymns. These will have been distributed by someone wearing disposable gloves. You can take the notice sheet away with you, but leave the order of service on your seat when you leave. It will then be quarantined for the next service!

There will be no singing, but we will listen to some hymns being sung by the choral scholars of St Martin in the Fields. You are welcome to hum along!

We are also asked not to raise our voices in saying response and prayers, but just use a normal speaking voice.

There will be no sharing of the peace through physical contact.

Before the prayer of consecration, the minister will sanitise her hands. With the exception of the priest's wafer, the wafers will be covered until they are distributed. The minister will wear a face mask for the distribution.

Communion will be in one kind only. In other words the congregation will receive just the bread and not the wine.

The arrangements for receiving communion will vary slightly from church to church, and you will need to follow directions given. You will be asked to sanitise your hands once again before receiving.

No words will be said as communion is given and received.

Currently we are not able to serve refreshments after the service and are encouraged not to hang around and chat. So at the end of the service you will be directed to leave row by row. You are asked not to stop to chat outside the church door and to be careful not to block the route for others, making sure you maintain a good social distance.

Will I appear on the live stream?

We will continue to live stream the service. The camera will be focused on the front of the church – the minister, readers and people leading the intercessions.

I'm not sure whether I ought to come?

Although we would love to see you, if you are unsure please don't feel pressurised to come.

If you are over 70, then Government advice is that you should stay at home as much as possible and when you do go out, you need to take extra care to minimise contact with others.

If you are in the extremely clinically vulnerable group and have been advised to shield, then we do not expect to see you!

If you have symptoms of COVID 19, or share a household with someone who has symptoms, please stay at home.

If you develop symptoms of COVID 19 after attending the service, please let us know so that we can deep clean the church and let others know.

So when and where are they?

Details of the services can be found on the back cover of the magazine.

Please do contact me if you have further questions.

Alice